



THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY
SUMMER EDITION JULY 2017



The Chairman's Report

The last quarter Society meetings have been very well attended and quite entertaining. The Monday afternoon sessions always have a captive audience – perhaps because the attendees choose the subject material for the sessions. We had 'Presidents and Prime Ministers', a letter theme and 'Royal Families' which all proved to be popular items for members displays.

The Thursday evening meetings have also been well attended with members Malcolm Hoskins – 'Machins' and Francis Connolly – 'George V', sharing a great evenings displays and Sue Hopson with her 'Out of the Wastepaper Basket' material. It was amazing just how much she found and so interesting too!

Then David Gibbon gave us a splendid evening all about 'Mauritius' issues from the earliest days up until the present. I think that the last part about the Jewish prisoners was quite remarkable and unknown to most people.

Thank you all. Barney Bardsley, Chairman

Year 51

Issue 137

Inside this issue:-

Front page –Chairman's report

Page 2 - Photographs

Page 3 - Meetings data

Page 4 - Meetings data

Page 5 - Meetings data

Page 6 - Data continues

Page 7 - Websites, Royal Mail Issues, Society data.

Back page - Club Stamps, Future Events, Society data.



Almost all of the Kings and Queens of England

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Photo Gallery



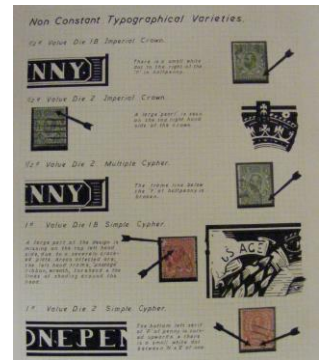
How to soak off stamps!



Malcolm Hoskins



Francis Connolly



Variations in Lettering



Long to Reign Over Us



A covered cover



Dream of Red Mansions



A sheet of £1 stamps



Additional Postage Required labels and stickers



Sue Hopson



To Sue from Buck House



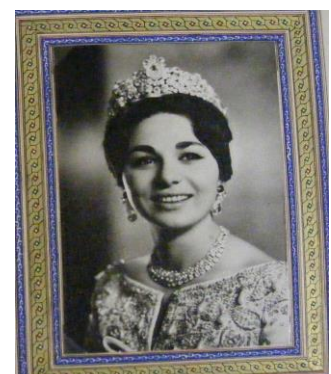
and one from the USA



Mohammed Raisah Pahlavi



The Stuarts and Tudors



Queen Farah Pahlavi

PAST EVENTS

Monday 3rd April and the theme was `Presidents and Prime Ministers`

Four members gave displays and **John Shambrook** started the afternoon showing items relating to Jan Masaryk who was the President of Czechoslovakia in the 1930`s. Among the stamps on cover were issues for his 80th birthday, the 100th and 150th anniversaries of his birth and for the 50th anniversary of his death.

Ian Keel followed with material relating to Sir Winston Churchill together with an album which contained much more in the way of stamps of Prime Ministers.

Sue Hopson`s display was about two of the Presidents of the Seychelles – firstly about James Mancham who didn`t last long in office and was overthrown in a coup, and then about France Albert Rene, who was persuaded by the splendidly named `Inter Government Philatelic Corporation` to let them issue postage stamps instead of the Crown Agents. The result – lots of rubbish to con collectors out of their cash. The Seychelles have seen the error of their ways and have now reverted back to the Crown Agents!

Finally **Graeme Stewart** showed some items relating to the visit of the Governor General of New Zealand to the Ross Island Dependency in 1963.

As only four members had contributed material, for the second half, Graeme showed firstly Post Boxes on post cards and then some postal history material of the Newbury district. This included a scarce card on Newbury from the East and the proclamation of George V. Among the postal history material we saw letters to the USA bearing postage dues, from Oslo to Newbury redirected to Berne, `Posted on the High Seas` from the S.S. Atlantic, illustrated covers from Newbury, P.O.W. letters to Cold Ash, a censored cover from Switzerland to Boxford and finally a postcard with details of the local agent of the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company !

All in all a very interesting display from all those contributors and many thanks to Bob Paterson who took these notes for me.

Thursday 20th April - `Malcolm Hoskins and Francis Connolly Entertain` and there were 21 members present

Malcolm Hoskins started the evening with his display and talk on `Machin Security Tags`. These were introduced because so many people were `soaking off` stamps for re-use (and still do) and hence the introduction of security tags in 2009 on 1st and 2nd class stamps and then on the the `iridescent` issues.

Malcolm showed many sheets to illustrate these issues and many more that showed alterations and changes for security reasons such as letter changes and introducing the `soaker-offers` bane – `the slots` at bottom left and right (there are ways though).

Machins were issued for a special Diamond Jubilee year in 2012 and Malcolm showed a nice sheet of the issue plus many more changes to stamps and booklets that occurred. He then showed quite a few Machin First Day covers and sheets of forgeries that the Royal Mail were, and still are, unable to stop. There was also a great sheet from `Soapbox` on how to soak off stamps and another sheet of `Long to Reign over us` 1st class issues. What an interesting and complex topic with some lovely illustrative sheets.

Part two of the meeting was with **Francis Connolly** with a sample of his stamp collection dealing with George V. He started with 22nd June 1911 issue and examples of die 1 and die 11 and sheets showing many errors and line varieties for collectors to acquire and lots of examples of colour and shade variations together with watermark variation some of which are very rare and difficult to find.

Francis then showed and spoke about varieties and `hard` repairs - `no crosses on the crown` errors some very rare indeed. He then showed the `Sea Horse` issues of 1913 onwards with once again sheets with the full range of issues and variations in colours, shades and printing errors and more shade variations of the de la Rue shade variations of 1915. He showed full sheets of the high values up to £1 and then the `Bradbury` issues of the 1930`s.

Francis finished off with sheets of commemoration issues that started in 1924/5 and finally a sheet of the Silver Jubilee issues of 1935. Wow! What a collection! and all well laid out and documented.

**Monday 8th May and the subject was `Theme on the letter M`
with 20 members present**

Nathan Gregory started the afternoon with sheets of his Malta issues starting with the early 1902 overprints, the 1903 Edward VII new issues and a mixture of many 1914 issues and the 1922 GV Malta Warrior issues with colour changes. Nathan finished off with 1926 overprints and the new fiscal issues.

A nice set of sheets well laid out.

John Shambrook was next and he spoke about Aviation Meetings that started in 1909 in France. He showed covers of other meetings too and sheets of postcards of aviation flights in France and the UK.

Then to finish off John showed some nice black and white cards of aircraft at the Bournemouth meeting held in July 1910.

Neil Hatton was next to speak and had a moan (with which we all agreed) about the splitting up of the Post Office and Royal Mail saying that it is not as good now for collectors as in the past with too many confetti issues. He then showed a lovely collection of covers with loads of stamps all over them to make up the postage costs (We all do that don't we?) They were all nice and tidily franked just as they should be.

Judy Straughan was next to speak and she brought a year book of Taiwanese stamps that contained a sheet on museums that showed the different styles of architecture. She also found that there are literally dozens of museums in Taiwan of all places, some of which are listed - Soya and mixed meat, Salt museum, Museum of drinking water, Cake and Pastry, World Police, Oil Fields, Spring Onions and many more. What a strange place!

Bob Paterson was next up and showed us a selection of sheets from his `Astronomy` collection starting with the Moon on several nice sheets including `the far side` images and the Eclipse of the Moon. Bob then showed some lovely sheets of Mars and its moons Phobos and Deimos and finished off with some nice issues and cards of `The War of the Worlds`.

There was a mini auction at half time and 13 lots from 21 were sold.

Ian Keel stated part 2 with sheets of machins (what else), showing different formats of machines relating to 4 different catalogues numbers. Then sheets of faults and combinations of the 1/2d used and nice sheets of variations, types and issues and changes to their lettering.

Tony Hillier showed us some Belgian issues on the theme of `Music`. The 1937 musical celebrations of a violinist and conductor, a FDC of the music foundation in the concert hall and then 2 mini sheets of the concert hall interior design.

Martin Farr was next up and he showed some sheets of Mendeleev, Mercator and Medical bits including a letter from France posted in the town of Condom – so it is a `French Letter`. Then he showed a set of sheets from China and Macau of the story `Dream of Red Mansions` about the love of Daiyu and Baoyu and the family feuds of the time and how they were eventually married. Nice sheets.

Ann Martin then showed us a collection of Sewing Machine stamps and several `Cinderellas` of sewing machines. I didn't know they were on any stamps !

Finally **Graeme Stewart** showed us sheets of images from England and some from far away all about motor cars. Black and white photos and cards of a car in Thatcham driven by the owner of Colthrop Mills in 1912/3. A photo of a Guinness Tanker that had crashed into the White Hart pub in 1954 and he finished off with some Marine Life issues from Antarctica.

**Thursday 17th May – “Out of the Wastepaper Basket” with Sue Hopson
and there were 25 members present.**

Sue started by telling us about the beginning of her unusual collection. She started in about 1980 by keeping all the envelopes from anywhere that had access to Camp Hopson mail ! Lots of what normal people would put into the bin but not me! She showed a letter to Newbury misread at Newry so it went to N Ireland! Then some nice Balloon flight covers. General letters sent to Camps from the House of Commons and the speaker and also from the House of Lords.

Then several letters to the company funeral department. Sue then showed letters and cancels from Buckingham Palace for the curators of the Royal Collection Charles Goodwyn and John Marriot. Sue then showed several sheets of mutilated letters that were eventually posted on correctly – meter postage envelopes, ‘Do not Surcharge’ letters and some surcharged ones as well.

For part 2 Sue started with lots of sheets such as - ‘to pay’, Surcharged covers and revenue protection. These were followed by letters to Sue from many worldwide locations. She showed ‘Insured Mail’ letters from Ireland to the British Heart Foundation all c/o Camp Hopson funerals. Then Christmas cards and letter collections to Camps, Newbury office cancellations of the company mails and loads of sheets that she collected for – as she said - a bit of fun. Sue then showed us many different cancellations and hand stamp cancellations all directed from Newbury to the company office. To finish off Sue displayed a board of 21 envelopes entitled ‘Fellow to Fellow’ sent over a 30 year period sent to the family and Christmas cards from Howard Lee who was the vice president of a New York bank and an expert in the history of the Pacific Islands.

Well, what a display of ‘Rubbish’ and it was accompanied by such interesting stories and remembrances of how and where it all came from. Thank you Sue – most entertaining.

Monday 5th June and the subject was ‘Royal Families’. there were 16 members present on a wet afternoon.

Tony Hillier started the proceedings by showing several sheets of postcards and photos of the Sax Coburg lineage of the Belgian Royal Family that eventually became the House of Windsor in 1917. He spoke about King Leopold I and II and of Queen Elizabeth who married Albert. Several nice pictures of them with their children. Then quite a detailed account of the Belgian Royal Family up to the end of WW II with King Baudouin. Tony has such a detailed knowledge of anything to do with Belgium.

Juliet Keel was next and showed covers of our Royal Family of the House of Windsor. Then picture cards of the Stuart and Tudor Monarchs and spoke of Lady Jane Grey who only had nine days as Queen!

Mike Smith then showed one sheet of stamps of Hawaii as he has never seen the country mentioned in this society! The stamps showed the dynastic sequence of rulers from the islands unification in 1795 up to 1810 when the last 2 islands were included into the Kingdom of Hawaii. The last monarch was Queen Lillh.....(unpronounceable) and so Mike just calls her ‘Lilly’ for short. He then said that did we know that the flag of Hawaii initially incorporated the Union Jack!

Ann Martin then showed a great sheet of all the Kings and Queens of England and - as she said – sheets of rubbish that one would collect if they were a royalist. Then a nice little book of sticker and then several sheets of pictures of the children of the Royal Family and some Coronation and Anniversary covers to finish off. Most were quite interesting and not really ‘rubbish’.

There was a mini auction at half time and 9 items from 20 were sold.

Graeme Stewart started the second half by showing Royal Family postcards and fdc’s of the 1937 Coronation. A nice cover of Elizabeth and Phillips wedding, a nice NZ cover of the Royal visit and some nice cards of the Queen Mothers 90th birthday.

Neil Hatton then took over with a nice collection of cards and their copied front data (this is certainly the way to do it). He spoke about and showed Royal residences, Queen Victoria’s memorial, and Edward VII. then cards of the 1907 Royal gathering at Windsor of all the European Monarchs and families and pictures of Victoria’s family on the balcony of Buckingham Palace. A nice presentation.

Dave Tanner, having earlier showed fdc’s of the House of Windsor and Royal weddings and anniversaries, Showed us stamps of the Egyptian Royal family of King Farouk and his wives up until the Republic was declared.. Then some nice stamps and sheets of the Persian Royal Family Sheik Raisah and his Queen Farah Pahlavi and 50th anniversary stamps of 1976 and issues of the 2,500th anniversary of the empire issued in 1971. Then some stamp sequences of the Leichtenstein Royal family. A nice display to finish off the afternoon.

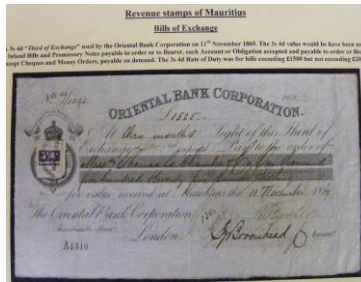
THE POSTCARD PAGE (AS WAS)

Thursday 15th June

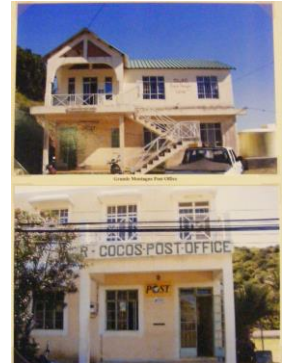
David Gibbon



Britannia Spiro Forgeries



A cheque for £1,525 from Mauritius



Post Offices in Rodrigues

This was the evening that **David Gibbon** presented his great material about the island of Mauritius. David began by saying that this was a selection of a whole range of material and he would 'show and tell' as it came.

He started with sheets about the 1846 Post Office first issues – the 1d red and the 2d blue and two covers in particular that had both stamps on. Then several sheets of early issues all slightly different such as the Britannia issues with no values on them ! Then he spoke about and showed lots of forgeries of these early stamps which are quite valuable.

David then continued with lots of sheets of the 1860-1894 Queens Head issues with lots of interesting data about them as well and showed cancelled proofs and printing and colour changes by de la Rue. Quite often when the Mauritius P.O. wanted to change rates etc by the time the request had travelled to England, been changed and printed and sent back the currency had changed again!

Then he showed more nice sheets of currency changes and local overprints and then the 'Coat of Arms' issue of 1892 with their die proofs and watermarks. Then to finish off part one David showed and spoke about illustrated sheets of the 1898 Jubilee issue and nice sheets of 'hi value' issues with different colours and post office and revenue overprints.

David started part 2 by showing lots of Mauritius mail, to and from all around the Indian ocean, dated from 1846 to 1869, sheets of covers with hand stamp overprints mostly to and from merchants. Then items about the Mauritius little railway system of 1864 with post offices at the stations and then several sheets of some of the postcards sent from these offices.

He continued with sheets of Insurance and Bill stamps and internal revenue specimens and issues all with different colours and shades. David then continues with the second world war issues and Mauritius wartime Jewish mail issues from the Jewish community.

Many Jewish families had made their way to Palestine when things got difficult in Germany. Palestine did not want them and so many were shipped off to Mauritius to be kept in prison complexes. David showed many letters and cards to and from their families in Europe. The complex was P.O. box 100 and each incarcerated person had their own number. He showed several Red Cross correspondence as well.

After the war, most of the community went back to Palestine.

David finished off a superb and interesting evening by showing several sheets of issues from the 1950's onwards with lots of illustrative covers and examples.

What an interesting and informative evening.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Tony Bray for World new issues at www.tonybray.co.uk

Royal Mail for all past and new issues at www.royalmail.com

The society website with lots of data and links at www.tdps.co.uk

Avion Thematics – one of the best organised sites at www.avionstamps.com

The Avion website now incorporates the stock listings for Phoenix International

Portsmouth stamp shop for awkward items and covers at www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk

A.B.P.S for all the latest philatelic news, events and links at www.abps.org.uk

www.stampauctionsnetwork.co.uk for lots of info about auctions almost everywhere

Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

5 th June	Machin Definitives Anniversary
20 th June	Windmills and Watermills
13 th July	Landmark Buildings
31 st July	World War I
22 August	Classic Toys
14 th September	Ladybird Books

The Packet Circuit

Earlier this year I took up running the Society's Packet Circuit from Mike Gurr who had held the post of Circuit Secretary for ten very successful years. The first two boxes were released at the end of March with booklets mainly from our own members. A further two boxes have just been distributed among the 20 society members who are on the list.

The booklets include GB, Commonwealth and some World issues with quality and prices, I believe, that are both attractive and realistic.

At this stage I have not broadened the distribution beyond our Society and hopefully some more of you would like to be on the list. I have received interest and booklets from York, Winchester and Basingstoke so there is plenty of material to look through. Our secretary Graeme has asked for society members to let him have their collecting interests and this information will be useful in targeting members needs and wants as well as letting the vendors know what to provide.

Although this `service` is in the early days, should members on the Circuit List (or any other members of the Society) have any thoughts and ideas as to how I can improve the Packet Circuit, please contact me. Equally, if any of you have material/booklets to go into the Packet Circuit, please let me know.

Neil Hatton TDPS Packet Secretary

THE BACK PAGE

“Club Stamps” corner

Club Stamps are well looked after by **Dave Tanner** who will be present at most of our club meetings. There will usually be a Club Table at all stamp fairs held at the Memorial Hall.

Accessories

Dave is also the contact for the purchase of all philatelic accessories – most of which are available to be ordered at a small discount.

Stamps of the World Catalogue set (normal price - £200) – TDPS price £155 + p&p

Collect British stamps (normal price - £12.95) – TDPS price £10 + p&p

GB Concise (normal price - £30) – TDPS price £23.50 + p&p

A small percentage always goes to club funds. Give Dave a ring on 01256 780467

Future Programme and Events

Monday	July 3rd	The Gerry Wilson Trophy Competition
Saturday	July 8 th	Midpex 2017 Leamington Spa
Thursday	July 20 th	Thematic Evening – Members to display 9 sheets
There is no Monday meeting in August		
Thursday	August 17 th	`Show, Tell and Sell` of members material
Monday	Sept. 4th	Grace Davies `More pages from Peace` and `Peace Rose`
Thursday	Sept. 21 st	AGM and Social Evening and Quiz
Saturday	Sept. 30 th	Hampex 2017 Wickham, Hants
Monday	Oct. 2 nd	Forgeries, Scams, Miss-prints and Cinderellas
Saturday	Oct. 7 th	Stamp Fair at the Memorial Hall

HELP REQUIRED

As you know, our Society Auction is held in October with Mike Ward compiling all the data for the Auction Catalogue. There will be plenty of help with the Auction Lots both before and at the actual auction itself but afterwards help will be needed with the storage of unsold lots until they are either collected or returned and those that are to be sent by mail to purchasers.

Mike Ward would be very grateful if anyone could take over from him the after-auction documentation and the temporary storage of the above items until they are dealt with as mentioned above.

Please contact Mike if you can help in any way.

Officers of the Club			Committee		
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Archivist	Still Need One	WestBex	Graeme and Martin	Publicity	Martin Farr